

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3896

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to institutions of higher education for postsecondary information technology education and employment assistance projects.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 1998

Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FORD, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. PAYNE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to institutions of higher education for postsecondary information technology education and employment assistance projects.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Information Tech-
5 nology Partnerships Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) There are more than 200,000 to 400,000
2 vacancies in various categories of information tech-
3 nology jobs.

4 (2) From 1996 to 2005, more than 1,300,000
5 new computer scientists, engineers, and systems an-
6 alysts will be required in the United States to fill va-
7 cant jobs, which equals 136,800 new workers per
8 year.

9 (3) Systems analysts will experience the largest
10 job growth, accounting for a 103 percent increase in
11 the number of new positions from 1996 (506,000) to
12 2005 (1,025,000).

13 (4) The shortage of information technology
14 workers transcends industries, affecting the manu-
15 facturing, service, transportation, health care, edu-
16 cation, and government sectors. Within each sector,
17 vacancies exist at all levels from aides and mechan-
18 ics to programmers and designers.

19 (5) The information technology worker shortage
20 is having an adverse effect on the viability of busi-
21 nesses in the United States and on the Nation's
22 competitiveness. Industry surveys report that half of
23 industry executives cite the lack of workers skilled in
24 technology as the number one obstacle to their com-
25 pany's growth. An additional 20 percent of industry

1 executives identify the lack of information tech-
2 nology workers as a major obstacle to their compa-
3 ny's growth.

4 (6) A major factor affecting the short supply of
5 information technology workers is the mismatch be-
6 tween what universities teach and what industry
7 needs.

8 (7) It is in the national interest to promote spe-
9 cial initiatives which effectively educate and train
10 our domestic workforce to keep pace with these ex-
11 panding job opportunities.

12 (8) Institutions of higher education have the ca-
13 pacity and resources to provide a role of oversight
14 and technical assistance to a wide range of local en-
15 tities, including community-based organizations, par-
16 ticipating in a comprehensive education and training
17 program for potential technology workers.

18 (9) Higher education institutions must be re-
19 sponsive to the digital environment and expand both
20 their outreach efforts and on-campus activities to
21 train and certify individuals to close the information
22 technology worker gap.

1 **SEC. 3. PARTNERSHIPS FOR POSTSECONDARY INFORMA-**
2 **TION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION AND EM-**
3 **PLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.**

4 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
5 make grants under this Act, in accordance with competi-
6 tive criteria established by the Secretary, to institutions
7 of higher education, in order to establish, oversee the oper-
8 ation of, and provide technical assistance to, projects de-
9 scribed in subsection (b).

10 (b) PROJECTS.—Projects under this Act shall be
11 projects implemented by a community-based organization
12 described in section 4, or by the institution of higher edu-
13 cation receiving the grant, to provide postsecondary infor-
14 mation technology education and employment procure-
15 ment assistance to eligible individuals described in section
16 5.

17 (c) RESTRICTIONS.—An institution of higher edu-
18 cation shall be eligible to receive only one grant under this
19 Act, but may, subject to the requirements of this Act, use
20 the grant to enter into contracts with more than one com-
21 munity-based organization. A community-based organiza-
22 tion shall not be eligible to enter into a contract under
23 this Act with more than one institution of higher edu-
24 cation.

25 (d) PERIOD OF GRANT.—The provision of payments
26 under a grant under this Act shall not exceed 5 fiscal

1 years and shall be subject to the annual approval of the
2 Secretary and subject to the availability of appropriations
3 for each fiscal year involved.

4 **SEC. 4. COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), a com-
6 munity-based organization described in this section is an
7 entity that, at the time the entity enters into a contract
8 with an institution of higher education for a project under
9 this Act, and throughout the duration of that contract—

10 (1) is—

11 (A) a governmental agency; or

12 (B) an organization described in section
13 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
14 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of
15 such Code; and

16 (2) is one of the following:

17 (A) A local partnership (as defined in sec-
18 tion 4 of the School-to-Work Opportunities Act
19 of 1994) receiving a grant under section 302 of
20 such Act.

21 (B) An entity organized and operated for
22 religious purposes.

23 (C) An entity furnishing school-age child
24 care services after school.

25 (D) A community-based computer center.

1 (E) An entity furnishing adult education.

2 (F) A library.

3 (G) A museum.

4 (H) Any other entity organized and oper-
5 ated for cultural, literary, or educational pur-
6 poses.

7 (b) LIMITATION.—An entity shall not be considered
8 a community-based organization described in this section
9 unless, at the time the entity enters into a contract with
10 an institution of higher education for a project under this
11 Act, it has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Sec-
12 retary that—

13 (1) it has the capacity successfully to recruit el-
14 igible individuals described in section 5 for participa-
15 tion in a project described in section 3, consistent
16 with the enrollment requirements in section 6(b)(5);

17 (2) it is providing an educational service, social
18 service, or employment procurement service; and

19 (3) in the case of an entity that independently
20 manages its own finances, it has been in existence
21 2 years or more.

22 **SEC. 5. ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.**

23 An eligible individual described in this section is an
24 individual who—

1 (1) has submitted a satisfactory application to
2 receive postsecondary information technology edu-
3 cation and employment procurement assistance
4 through a project under this Act; and

5 (2) has a certificate of graduation from a school
6 providing secondary education, or the recognized
7 equivalent of such a certificate.

8 **SEC. 6. DUTIES.**

9 (a) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—An in-
10 stitution of higher education receiving a grant under this
11 Act shall use the funds provided under the grant to carry
12 out the following duties:

13 (1) Final selection of community-based organi-
14 zations described in section 4 desiring to provide, at
15 one or more sites, in accordance with a contract with
16 the institution of higher education and this Act,
17 postsecondary information technology education and
18 employment procurement assistance to eligible indi-
19 viduals described in section 5.

20 (2) Entering into a contract with each commu-
21 nity-based organization selected under paragraph (1)
22 under which the institution and the organization
23 agree to carry out the duties respectively required of
24 them under this Act with respect to each site de-
25 scribed in paragraph (1).

1 (3) With respect to each site described in para-
2 graph (1)—

3 (A) provision of such funding for the es-
4 tablishment and initial operation of the site as
5 was specified in the grant application submitted
6 by the institution to the Secretary;

7 (B) approval of final site selection and
8 preparation;

9 (C) initial orientation and training of per-
10 sonnel employed to manage and operate the
11 site;

12 (D) design and certification of the instruc-
13 tional and academic programs, and oversight of
14 the implementation of the programs;

15 (E) oversight of equipment purchases and
16 contracts for equipment maintenance; and

17 (F) selection of an outside contractor for
18 periodic evaluation of the management and op-
19 eration of the site.

20 (b) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—A community-based organi-
22 zation implementing a project under this Act with
23 an institution of higher education, at one or more
24 sites, shall carry out the duties described in this sub-

1 section, with respect to each such site, subject to the
2 oversight and guidance of the institution.

3 (2) GENERAL DUTIES.—The organization—

4 (A) shall undertake final site selection and
5 preparation;

6 (B) shall recruit and hire a site director;

7 (C) shall carry out any supplementary in-
8 structional, academic, or educational activities
9 specified in the contract with the institution of
10 higher education that are not described in para-
11 graph (4);

12 (D) shall assemble an advisory committee
13 composed of individuals residing in the commu-
14 nity in which the site is located, as well as in-
15 dustry representatives, who desire to assist the
16 organization in ensuring that the goals of the
17 organization are consistent with the goals and
18 needs of the community population;

19 (E) shall provide to the institution other
20 evidence of volunteer support from individuals
21 residing in the community in which the site is
22 located and industry representatives;

23 (F) shall recruit eligible individuals for en-
24 rollment, subject to paragraph (5);

1 (G) shall maintain waiting lists of eligible
2 individuals desiring to enroll in the project's
3 programs;

4 (H) shall provide career counseling to eligi-
5 ble individuals enrolled in the project's pro-
6 grams; and

7 (I) shall provide job and internship infor-
8 mation and placement, employer contacts, and
9 other forms of employment procurement assist-
10 ance to eligible individuals enrolled in the
11 project's programs.

12 (3) SITE REQUIREMENTS.—The organization
13 shall ensure that each site—

14 (A) has a minimum of 20 fully functioning
15 computers with sufficient capacity to perform
16 all of the computer operations that are the sub-
17 ject of the curriculum specified in paragraph
18 (4);

19 (B) in addition to the space for the com-
20 puters described in subparagraph (A), has—

21 (i) a classroom space with the capac-
22 ity for seating a minimum of 30 students;

23 (ii) a space in which to conduct the
24 required career and employment counseling
25 functions specified in paragraph (2); and

1 (iii) a separate office for the site di-
2 rector;

3 (C) is real property subject to the control
4 of the organization or the institution, through a
5 lease or other legal instrument, for a period of
6 not less than 5 years;

7 (D) is open to enrolled individuals not less
8 than 12 hours per day; and

9 (E) is located within walking distance of
10 public transportation.

11 (4) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CURRICU-
12 LUM.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The organization shall
14 ensure that each site offers enrollees a curricu-
15 lum that includes a broad range of course work
16 that will assist them in qualifying for employ-
17 ment in the field of information technology.

18 (B) COURSES LEADING TO CERTIFI-
19 CATION.—Such curriculum shall include course
20 work leading to a certification of competence in
21 areas of information technology recognized by
22 the National Skill Standards Board established
23 under the National Skill Standards Act of
24 1994.

1 (C) SPECIFIC COURSES.—The computer
2 training offered shall include courses in basic
3 computer competence, on-the-job upgrade as-
4 sistance, and advanced computer competence.

5 (5) ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS.—The orga-
6 nization shall ensure that its enrollment of eligible
7 individuals at each site is consistent with the follow-
8 ing:

9 (A) Not less than 50 percent of the eligible
10 individuals shall be, at the time of enrollment,
11 individuals—

12 (i) to whom a credit was allowed
13 under section 32 of the Internal Revenue
14 Code of 1986 for the preceding taxable
15 year;

16 (ii) who are recipients of assistance
17 under a State program funded under part
18 A of title IV of the Social Security Act;

19 (iii) who are a member of a household
20 participating in the food stamp program;
21 or

22 (iv) who are considered low-income
23 pursuant to regulations promulgated by
24 the Secretary under this Act.

1 (B) Not less than 50 percent of the eligible
2 individuals shall be, at the time of enrollment,
3 under 25 years of age.

4 (C) No prerequisite relating to net worth,
5 income, or assets may be applied to any eligible
6 individual who, at the time of enrollment, is
7 over 50 years of age, except that this require-
8 ment shall not be construed to supersede sub-
9 paragraph (A).

10 **SEC. 7. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS SOLELY BY INSTI-**
11 **TUTIONS.**

12 The Secretary may make a grant under this Act to
13 an institution of higher education that desires to imple-
14 ment a project under this Act without the participation
15 of a community-based organization described in section 4,
16 if the institution agrees to carry out all of the duties re-
17 quired of such an organization under this Act, in addition
18 to the duties otherwise required of an institution of higher
19 education. The Secretary shall, in awarding grants under
20 this Act, give priority to institutions of higher education
21 whose grant application includes an assurance that the in-
22 stitution will contract with one or more community-based
23 organizations in accordance with this Act.

1 **SEC. 8. APPLICATIONS.**

2 To apply for a grant under this Act for any fiscal
3 year, an institution of higher education shall submit an
4 application to the Secretary in accordance with the proce-
5 dures established by the Secretary. The application shall
6 specify the institution's preliminary selections for the com-
7 munity-based organizations (if any) with which the insti-
8 tution proposes to contract, and shall include information
9 with respect to preliminary site selections.

10 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
12 this Act \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 and such sums
13 as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal
14 years.

15 **SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.**

16 For purposes of this Act:

17 (1) ADULT EDUCATION.—The term “adult edu-
18 cation” has the meaning given such term in section
19 312 of the Adult Education Act.

20 (2) COMMUNITY-BASED COMPUTER CENTER.—
21 The term “community-based computer center”
22 means a computer center—

23 (A) funded by both the Federal Govern-
24 ment and at least one private sector entity;

25 (B) located in a low-income community (as
26 determined by the Secretary); and

1 (C) organized and operated for the purpose
2 of providing families with access to computer
3 resources that otherwise would not be available
4 to them.

5 (3) FOOD STAMP PROGRAM.—The term “food
6 stamp program” has the meaning given such term
7 in section 3(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977.

8 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
9 term “institution of higher education” has the
10 meaning given such term in section 1201 of the
11 Higher Education Act of 1965.

12 (5) LIBRARY.—The term “library” has the
13 meaning given such term in section 213 of the Li-
14 brary Services and Technology Act.

15 (6) MUSEUM.—The term “museum” has the
16 meaning given such term in section 272 of the Mu-
17 seum and Library Services Act.

18 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Education.

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